CLAIMS

1.   In a multimedia system, a method of interfacing
media, said method comprising the steps of:

5   displaying continuously a first media data type on a
display having contiguous lines, said display having a line-to-
line correspondence with said first media data type;

requesting from a source device a first line of data of a
second media data type before a predetermined line of data of

10   said first media data type is displayed;

receiving said first line of data;

aligning said first line of data to said first media data
type;

mixing said first line of data with said predetermined

15   line of data; and

displaying said first line of data and said predetermined
line of data concurrently on a predetermined line of said
display without any interruption in the displaying of said
first media data type.

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2.   The method as described in Claim 1, comprising the
further step of:

requesting on a line-by-line basis further lines of data
of said second media data type, to be aligned to, mixed with,

25   and displayed concurrently with said corresponding lines of
data of said first media data type, before each of said

corresponding lines of data of said first media data type are

displayed.

3.   The method as described in Claim 1, comprising the

5 further step of:

sending a retrace signal to said source device to

indicate the beginning of an image to be shown on said

display, said image to be taken from a group consisting

essentially of:

10   a frame in the case of progressive mode; and

a field in the case of interlaced mode.

4.   The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said

first media data type comprises video data and said second

15 media data type comprises graphics data, said graphics data

displayed in a resizable window.

5.   The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said

first media data type comprises graphics data and said second

20 media data type comprises video data, said video data displayed

in a resizable window.

6.   The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said

step of aligning comprises the further steps of:

25   matching frame rates in the case of progressive mode or

field rates in the case of interlaced mode; and

converting data of said second media data type to the same format as data of said first media data type.

7. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said
5 step of mixing comprises the further steps of:

overlaying said first line of data over said predetermined line of data; and

placing said first line of data within said window on said display.

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8. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said step of mixing comprises the further steps of:

alpha blending said first line of data with said predetermined line of data; and

15 placing said first line of data within said window on said display.

9. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said step of aligning comprises the further step of:

20 performing frame rate conversion.

10. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said first line of data is received in a first-in-first-out-buffer (FIFO).

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11. In a multimedia system, a method of interfacing media types, comprising the steps of:

a) displaying continuously a first media data type on a
display having contiguous lines, said display having a line-to-
line correspondence with said first media data type;

b) sending a retrace signal from said first device to
5 said source device to indicate the beginning of an image to
be shown on said display;

c) requesting from a source device on a line-by-line
basis a line of data of a second media data type before a
corresponding line of data of said first media data type is
10 displayed, said line of data of a second media data type to be
displayed in a resizable window of said display;

d) receiving said line of data of a second media data
type;

e) aligning said line of data of a second media data
15 type to said first media data type;

f) mixing said first line of data with said
corresponding line of data;

g) displaying said line of data of a second media data
type and said corresponding line of data of said first media
20 data type concurrently on a predetermined line of said display
without any interruption in the displaying of said first media
data type; and

h) repeating steps c) through g) until said image is
displayed; and

25 i) repeating steps a) through h).

12.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said image is to be taken from a group consisting essentially of:

a frame in the case of progressive mode; and

a field in the case of interlaced mode.

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13.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said first media data type comprises video data and said second media data type comprises graphics data, said graphics data displayed in said window.

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14.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said first media data type comprises graphics data and said second media data type comprises video data, said video data displayed in said window.

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15.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said step of aligning comprises the further steps of:

matching frame rates in the case of progressive mode or field rates in the case of interlaced mode; and

20   converting data of said second media data type to the same format as data of said first media data type.

16.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said step of mixing comprises the further steps of:

25   overlaying said first line of data over said predetermined line of data; and

placing said first line of data within said window on
said display.

17.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said
step of mixing comprises the further steps of:

alpha blending said first line of data with said
predetermined line of data; and

placing said first line of data within said window on
said display.

18.   The method as described in Claim 11, wherein said
display is taken from a list comprising essentially of:

SDTV;

HDTV;

VGA computer monitor;

CRTs; and

High Resolution Display.

19.   A system comprising a processor, a memory unit, and
a display screen wherein said memory contains instructions that
when executed implement a method of interfacing media, said
method comprising the steps of:

displaying continuously a first media data type on a
display having contiguous lines, said display having a line-to-
line correspondence with said first media data type;

requesting from a source device a first line of data of a
second media data type before a predetermined line of data of
said first media data type is displayed;

receiving said first line of data;

5   aligning said first line of data to said first media data
type;

mixing said first line of data with said predetermined
line of data; and

displaying said first line of data and said predetermined
10   line of data concurrently on a predetermined line of said
display without any interruption in the displaying of said
first media data type.

20.   The method as described in Claim 19, comprising the
15   further step of:

requesting on a line-by-line basis further lines of data
of said second media data type, to be aligned to, mixed with,
and displayed concurrently with said corresponding lines of
data of said first media data type, before each of said
20   corresponding lines of data of said first media data type are
displayed.

21.   The method as described in Claim 19, comprising
the further step of:

25   sending a retrace signal to said source device to
indicate the beginning of an image to be shown on said

display, said image to be taken from a group consisting essentially of:

    a frame in the case of progressive mode; and

    a field in the case of interlaced mode.

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22.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said first media data type comprises video data and said second media data type comprises graphics data, said graphics data displayed in a resizable window.

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23.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said first media data type comprises graphics data and said second media data type comprises video data, said video data displayed in a resizable window.

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24.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said step of aligning comprises the further steps of:

    matching frame rates in the case of progressive mode or field rates in the case of interlaced mode; and

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    converting data of said second media data type to the same format as data of said first media data type.

25.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said step of mixing comprises the further steps of:

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    overlaying said first line of data over said predetermined line of data; and

placing said first line of data within said window on said display.

26.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said
step of mixing comprises the further steps of:

alpha blending said first line of data with said predetermined line of data; and

placing said first line of data within said window on said display.

27.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said step of aligning comprises the further step of:

performing frame rate conversion.

28.   The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said first line of data is received in a first-in-first-out-buffer (FIFO).